

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06664 271248Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
ACDA-12 DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-07 /113 W
-----069026 280745Z /11

R 271245Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5583
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS LONDON 06664

E. O. 11652:NA
TAGS: PARM UK
SUBJECT: ERW: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN SUPPORTS
PRESIDENT'S DECISION

REF: LONDON 5540

1. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS APRIL 26,
DR. OWEN:

--REPEATED HMG'S SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
DECISION TO POSTPONE PRODUCTION OF THE "NEUTRON BOMB"
PENDING DEMONSTRATIONS OF SOVIET "RESTRAINT IN THEIR
OWN ARMS PROGRAMS AND FORCE DEPLOYMENTS;"

--OBSERVED THE QUESTION OF STORING OR DEPLOYING
ERW IN THE UK DOES NOT THEREFORE ARISE AT THIS TIME;

--ADMITTED THE ARGUMENT THAT ERWS WOULD REDUCE
THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD IS A SERIOUS ONE; BUT ADDED HIS
"PERSONAL" BELIEF THAT THE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS IS A "DELICATE DECISION" WHICH WOULD ONLY EVER
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BE TAKEN UNDER STRICT POLITICAL CONTROL;

--NOTED THAT CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD WITH
THE US OVER QUITE A LONG PERIOD OF MONTHS ON THE ERW
ISSUE;

--INDICATED HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT 1978 WOULD
SEE SALT II AND CTB AGREEMENTS, AND WAS HOPEFUL OF
PROGRESS ON MBFR.

2. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR OWEN'S REMARKS ON THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD, HIS RESPONSES ARE CONSISTENT WITH HMG'S STATEMENT ISSUED ON APRIL 7 (REFTEL) SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, SPEECHES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, NUCLEAR BOMBS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PARM, UK, (CARTER, JIMMY), (OWEN, DAVID)
To: STATE
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